

Newsletter

Autumn 2016



Results of Playing Field Survey

Thanks to those who responded to our survey in the summer. 169 completed forms were submitted.

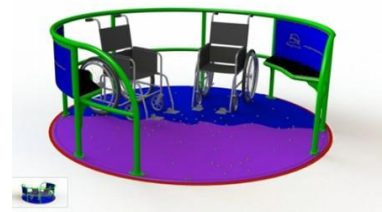
The results are:

- ◆ 96 (57.1%) gave children's play equipment their first choice
- ◆ 32 (19.1%) gave adult fitness equipment their first choice
- ◆ 22 (13.1%) gave the footpath their first choice
- ◆ 18 (10.7%) gave ball games their first choice



If first and second choices are combined,

- ◆ 79.2% of respondents preferred children's play,
- ◆ 43.5% adult fitness,
- ◆ 42.9% ball games and
- ◆ 27.4% the footpath.



This survey clearly indicates a strong preference for improvements to the children's play area.

Consequently, the parish council used this as evidence to apply for funding through the New Homes Bonus and has been awarded £18,504 from 2014/2015 years to be spent on play equipment by September 2017 and £7620 from 2016 to be spent on improving the fencing for the play area in the next 3 years.

The council are now consulting children in the school and nursery on which pieces of equipment to purchase and we look forward to seeing them using the improvements by this time next year!

Please note - the play area will remain in the same location as at present.

Our Drainage is far more robust than 2012



In 2012/13 it became clear that something needed to be done if our village was not to be subjected to an ever-increasing tendency to Flood. We are thankful to Clive Barrington, to whose persuasiveness arranged for many of the ditches culverts and gullies around the village to be cleared. Most notable is the installation of a completely new culvert, funded by Operation Watershed, running alongside Walwyn Close. Installed in 2000,

this culvert was completely blocked with tree roots, and was largely responsible for all the flooding that happened in Church Lane.

Clive recently handed over the lead to Cllr Richard Bird who is determined to carry on with all the work.

Recently West Sussex Highway have made a film record of the condition of the main culverts around the village, and we have now received a detailed report. This report will be discussed at our next Parish Council Meeting on the 21st November

We are grateful for all this work WSCC have been doing around the village, **BUT** they have told us no matter how bad the culvert is, if adjacent ditches are overgrown or silted up they will not touch the culvert, no matter how bad its condition. We can't allow this to happen. Culverts are expensive to repair.

If you have a ditch on your property, it's your responsibility to keep it clear.

The Parish Council will soon undertake an inspection of the ditches around the village as we did last year. Then we were charitable; this year we will first write to you, but if you fail to act, we will refer all instances of overgrown or silted up ditches to WSCC who have the authority to take legal action.

How many of you realize that we have three other ponds in the village? One by the village green, Kingfisher Pond, and Triangle Pond.

The recently issued Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan details how we can further make our village drain network more robust. One of the measures listed in the report is to increase the 'tankage' of these three ponds.

Last winter with the help of Jane Reeve FLOW Project Manager of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, and land owner Tom Monnington, we made a start on Kingfisher Pond and cleared the ditches down to the Village Pond. This should greatly help prevent flooding along this lane. In the next few weeks we hope to remove the unsightly tree stumps, and give us an opportunity to improve the landscaping.



Birdham Community Resilience Plan works



The Parish Council has been progressing the compilation and adoption of the resilience plan for Birdham should support and resources be needed if there is a major incident such as bad weather, flooding, a serious accident or fire or partial evacuation required in our area.

The Community Team has been assembled and an initial training event was held including a scenario situation where local responses had to be planned and put into simulated actions. The intention is that Birdham may require being self-sufficient

and self-supporting if the need arises when outside emergency resources are limited or not available.

Having a resilience / emergency plan should ensure Birdham has;

- ◆ Identified most foreseeable major incidents within the Parish
- ◆ Identified key personnel and emergency organisations and their responsibilities
- ◆ A list of key contact numbers
- ◆ Planned the local resources and staff, including those from local businesses, that would be available to support our community.

The Birdham Plan has been compiled to complement the existing emergency plans in place by Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council so a co-ordinated and proportionate response can be given to a specific incident.

Thought also needs to be given by each Birdham household for their own emergency plan as being prepared can help reduce the effects on your life and your family, reduce the need for support from others and enable you to support the vulnerable in our community. Could each household leave their homes quickly if required to do so with, for example, contact information of relatives, household insurance company details, key contact numbers and a list of current medication?

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Birdham Parish Neighbourhood Plan adopted



Further to the referendum held on 5th May 2016, when 90% of the voters said 'YES' to the plan, it has now been adopted by Chichester District Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 19th July 2016, Chichester District Council resolved to 'Make' the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan. This means that the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan has been brought into legal force, and forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Birdham. Consequently, decisions on whether or not to

grant planning permission in Birdham will need to be made in accordance with the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

A copy of the plan is available to view on the Birdham Parish Council website.

Co-option of new Councillor

As a result of a vacancy on the Parish Council, and following the procedures set down for filling that vacancy, a new councillor has been co-opted. We welcome Barry Richardson to the council and hope he enjoys working for the community.

Don't forget the Birdham Tea Party

A reminder that all are welcome to the Village Hall for tea and cakes on the **first Tuesday of every month at 3.00pm.**